



**RI Department of Health**  
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[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

### **Interim Health Advisory**

Date: August 12, 2009  
To: All Healthcare Providers  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 in RI

**Rhode Island:** 201 confirmed positive cases, 76 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths  
**National Report:** 50 states (including DC, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 6,506 hospitalized cases, 436 deaths

**HEALTH will continue to use the Provider Briefing to communicate new information about the H1N1 virus to providers. Please remember to read this briefing every week and to review clinical guidance and advisories posted on HEALTH's website. Any guidance that is revised or updated will be date stamped for easier reference. If the situation warrants, more frequent briefings will be issued.**

#### **Updated Guidance for K-12 Schools**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance last week for schools (K-12) to help them prepare for the upcoming seasonal and H1N1 flu season. The most significant change to guidance is that the CDC is now recommending that students and staff with influenza-like illness (ILI) stay home until they are free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. To see the updated school advisory, visit <http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/SchoolAdvisory081209.pdf>. To access the complete CDC guidance for K-12 schools, see <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/schoolguidance.htm>.

#### **Updated Guidance on HEALTH's Website**

HEALTH is updating advisories posted on its website to reflect the new recommendations for the amount of time individuals with ILI should remain at home. The following advisories have been updated to reflect this new guidance:

- Child Care/Day Care Advisory
- Higher Education Institutions
- Advisory to All RI Schools
- Advisory for School Nurse Teachers
- Guidance for Educational Faculty/Staff
- Guidance for Summer Camps
- Workplace Guidance
- FAQs about H1N1 (Swine) Flu for Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and Urgent Care Centers
- Pediatrics Guidance

#### **Healthcare Service Region (HSR) Contact Information**

As a reminder, there are 10 HSR in the state that will each manage H1N1 vaccination and medical surge efforts in the fall. Planning efforts in each HSR is led by an acute-care hospital. Following is a list of the municipalities included in each HSR, the lead hospital for the HSR and

the contact information for the respective HSR lead.

<b><u>HSR</u></b>	<b><u>HSR POC</u></b>	<b><u>Municipalities</u></b>
<b>Our Lady of Fatima Hospital</b>	Kelly Cassin 456-3676 (office), 368-6094 (cell) kcassin@saintjosephri.com	Glocester, Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence
<b>Kent Hospital</b>	Joseph DiPietro 737- 7010x1270 (office) idipietro@kentri.org	Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick, West Greenwich, East Greenwich
<b>Landmark Medical Center</b>	Jennifer Zuba, RN 769- 4100 x 2285 (office) jzuba@landmarkmedical.org	Burrillville, North Smithfield, Woonsocket
<b>Memorial Hospital</b>	Judy VanTilburg, Vice President of Professional Practice, 729-2556, judy_van_tilburg@mhri.org	Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket
<b>Miriam Hospital</b>	Monica Anderson 793- 2120 (office), 350-9981 (beeper), 255-6151 (cell) manderson5@lifespan.org	East Providence, Barrington, Warren, Bristol
<b>Newport Hospital</b>	Joyce Sullivan, MS, RRT Safety Officer 845-1177 (office), 639-2441 (cell) jsullivan@lifespan.org	Jamestown, Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport, Tiverton, Little Compton
<b>Rhode Island Hospital</b>	John O'Reilly 444- 5852 (office) 640-1146 (cell) joreilly@lifespan.org	Providence
<b>Roger Williams Medical Center</b>	Tom Lawrence 456- 2000 x 8437 (office) tlawrence@rwmc.org	Foster, Scituate, Cranston
<b>South County Hospital</b>	Lee Ann Quinn 788- 1658 (office), 413-0614 (cell) lquinn@schospital.com	Exeter, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, Narragansett
<b>Westerly Hospital</b>	Leslie Bartholomew 348-3682 (office), 872-5448 (beeper) lbartholomew@westerlyhospital.org	Hopkinton, Westerly, Charlestown, New Shoreham

#### **Adult seasonal influenza vaccine now available**

Adult vaccine providers in the state were notified yesterday that the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) has received 55,000 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine for Rhode Island's adult population and that they should expect to receive at least a portion of their orders beginning the week of August 17.

#### **Pediatric seasonal influenza vaccine not yet available**

Because the pediatric vaccine is ordered through CDC rather than the manufacturers, it is not

yet available. HEALTH will contact pediatric providers when the vaccine is available.

**HEALTH asks providers to begin seasonal flu vaccination early**

HEALTH anticipates providing two different flu vaccines this season; the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine. In years past, Rhode Island has had an official “start date” to begin immunizing against the flu. This season, HEALTH encourages providers to begin vaccinating against seasonal flu as soon as you receive your vaccine to minimize the workload and confusion associated with two immunization campaigns. You can refer to the ACIP recommendations for seasonal flu vaccination at [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/index.htm)

**Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>